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IN DEFENSE OF THE OPPRESSED

HOPE **VILTIS** HOPE

FOR UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

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THREE YEARS OF VILTIS

May will mark three years since the first appearance of Viltis, which started in mimeographed form. We would like to publish an issue that would surpass the Christmas issue, in beauty, size and contents. We are lining up pictures from all over the world taken by our own readers and VILTIS members, choice articles and select stories. We are turning once again to you readers for assistance in the form of "Congratulations to VILTIS," 25 cents per name. Larger space will also be available from one dollar and up. Let each and everyone send in their quarters or more.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL IN CLEVELAND

Sarah Gertrude Knott, director of the National Folk Festival, announced that the festival will be held this year in Cleveland, Ohio, in the Public Auditorium, on May 21st to May 25th.

The Chicagoland Folk Festival will be held on May Third at Orchestra Hall under the direction of Joseph Creanza, director of the College of Music at Roosevelt College, Chicago.

NORTHWESTERN HOUSE WELCOMES VETS

On January 20th Northwestern University Settlement House welcomed back its heroic boys who have returned after many years all over the globe in the service for their country. About three dozen veterans were present, all but two dressed in their civilian best displaying their hard-earned homing-pigeons in lapels. It was a gala atmosphere, everyone talked over old times and their experiences. Among the guest were the newly acquired wives of the vets, many friends and relatives; the house was packed.

Miss Vittum, head resident of the Settlement, beamed with joy and proud to see her boys home again. A savory supper was prepared. The entertainment was simple and impressive. Miss Mary Mix, a student of Northwestern University School of Music, beautifully played four numbers on a harp. Miss Morse told the story of the two service flags crowded with stars. The names of the 24 boys who have offered the supreme sacrifice, were read, and a memorial prayer offered. Among the veterans were a few who had lost brothers in the war: Casimir Zurawski, whose brother Bruno was killed on Guadalcanal, Edward Papciak whose brother Stanley was killed in the Pacific and Connie Witek whose brother Frank was killed on Guam. Frank Witek received a Congressional Medal posthumously during ceremonies held in Soldier's Field, Chicago, and on February 2nd, a U.S. Battle Ship was named after him in New York.

Mr. Marion Kudlick, a lawyer who was reared in the

neighborhood of NW, spoke on the problems that confronted the veterans of World War I; then John Davidson, a former boys worker of NW and a Lt. Commander in this war, spoke on the problems that confronts veteran of the more recent war. Both talks were very interesting.

The house provided a five piece orchestra, and all enjoyed several hours of dancing in the gym.

These boys are no longer with us, but we feel, were present in spirit:

Joseph Paciask, Joseph Chopek, Joseph Gorski, James Hall, Ted Inzurello, Ted Diakow-Stawasz, John B. Tatarski, Adam Wojcik, Chester Obal, Bruno Zurawski, Mitchell Luczek, Chester Wilczynski, Joseph Placzinik, Joseph Piczor, John Sperka, Ted Mikos, Henry Dutkiewicz, Frank Witek, Stanley Papciak, Casimir Maichewka, and Michael Wasniewski.

Grant them terenal rest, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.

VETERANS STOP, LOOK, LISTEN!

Below is printed an important letter by our own Jimmy Casebare, altho raised in the Deep South, Fairhope, Alabama, entertains no form of any unjust discrimination and prejudice. Everyone, especially veterans, should read his letter carefully. —VFB.

Dear Fin.

There's one thing that worries me a bit, your alusion to all of the returning soldiers who are joining the American Legion and the VFW. I may be wrong, but I feel that that's just about the worst thing a man can do. Most of us over here are very much opposed to the existing veterans organizations because of the disgusting record of their activities. From what we can gather the veterans organizations tie the World War II vet down, don't give him any part in operation of the organizations and tie his hands politically so that he can't do himself any good. Three is too much concentration on race prejudice, on crooked and ineffectual political legislation to suit most of the men I know. Although I have not yet joined a veterans organization I think when I do it will be one of the new ones with more liberal platforms. Incidentally, do you know the "Statement of Intentions" of the AVC, the American Veterans Committee? Here it is. It will show you what I mean.

"We look forward to becoming civilians, making a decent living, raising a family, and living in freedom from threat of another war. But that was what most Americans wanted from the last war. They found that military victory does not automatically bring peace, jobs or freedom. To guarantee our interests, which are those

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of our country, we must work for what we want.

"Therefore we are associating ourselves with American men and women, regardless of race, creed or color, who are serving with or have been honorably discharged from our armed forces, merchant marine, or allied forces. When we are demobilized it will be up to all of us to decide what action can best further our aims.

"These will include:

"Adequate financial, medical, vocational and educational assistance for every veteran.

"A job for every veteran, under a system of private enterprise in which business, labor, agriculture and government work together to provide full employment and full production for the nation.

"Through social and economic security.

"Free speech, press, worship, assembly, and ballot.

"Disarmament of Germany and Japan and the elimination of the power of their militarist classes.

"Active participation of the United States in the United Nations organization to stop any threat of aggression and to promote social and economic measures which will remove the causes of war.

"Establishment of an international veterans council for the furtherance of world peace and justice among the peoples of all nations."

The thing that seems dangerous, Fin, is that the returning soldier joins an organization without first giving serious thought to the part it is playing in the furtherance of our nations prosperity and perpetuation of democracy, but he pulled into an organization that furthers the vicious forms of Fascism that he fought to destroy.

Perhaps I'm particularly vehement tonight because I've just been reading about the sticker a Los Angeles VFW post carries on windshields,

NO JAPS WANTED IN CALIFORNIA

Japs are Treacherous No Matter Where

They Are Born

Lomita Post 1622 —

Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Our Commanding General, Major General Willoughby, MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence and CO of our unit, recently said that of the three thousand Nisei he commanded not one had ever been proven disloyal. Those are my buddies the General and Post 1622 are talking about and they are as good as any other American—and better than many I can name.

Always your Buddy,
Jim. (Lt. James Casebare.)

PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR GREEN

The Republic of Lithuania was one of the victims of World War II devastation in Europe. Although this brave little country is now under the rule of military dictatorship, hope is in the hearts of thousands of Americans of Lithuanian origin that it will eventually be restored to its former place among the independent nations of the world.

The Independence of Lithuania is based on the long standing principle of American foreign policy, that all people in all parts of the world shall have the right to elect their own government.

February 16, 1946, is the Twenty Eight Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania, and this Anniversary is thus an occasion of importance to Americans of Lithuanian origin in the State of Illinois.

Now, Therefore, I, Dwight H. Green, Governor of State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Saturday, Feb. 16th

of the present year as "Republic of Lithuanian Day" and and commend the observance of the occasion to all interested groups, organizations and individuals.

In Witness Whereof, I have set unto my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed hereto.

Done at the Capitol of Springfield this fourteenth day of February in the year of our Lord 1946 and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and twenty-eight.

Signed: DWIGHT H. GREEN, Governor
by the Governor
EDWARD J. BARRETT,
Secretary of State.

FOUR RUSSIAN SOVIETS EXISTS NO LONGER

News of the past elections of the Supreme Soviet revealed that four republics; the German Volga District, the Kalamuk, the Crimean, the Chesheningush and the Autonomous Karachayevska district, have been liquidated from the Russian Soviet Union.

The German-Volga Soviet was in the Saratov district where Germans have lived since the days of Katherine the Great who invited them to colonize that they might set an example for the Russians in farm cultivation. The Reds gave the descendants of these colonists Autonomy; Petrovsk was this Republic's capital, later renamed Engels (co-worker of Karl Marx). When Hitler invaded Russia, Stalin expelled 400,000 to Asiatic Siberia; while its rulers, and Communist party leaders of that republic, were shot.

The Crimean Republic was liquidated when the Russians re-occupied that peninsula. The land was populated largely by Tartars and Kra'aites (Karaimeans). The Kra'aites, Greeks and some Tartars fled the advancing Russ, but the bulk of the Tartar population remained. The villages were surrounded and a bloody slaughter ensued: the remaining Tartars expelled to the Narym district in Siberia. Of a population of 1,127,000 only 200,000 remained; the republic was deleted from the Soviet map.

The Cheshen-Ingush Soviet, around the Grozny district in the Caucasus, was liquidated because the population rose in rebellion against Stalin while the war was still going on in the Ukraine. When Hitler visited Aramvir, he was given a pure-bred white horse by the population. For this action, upon re-occupation by the Russians, the leaders were shot, and the mass of the population was exiled to Siberia to die. From these republics 6-7 million people were deported.

Rebellion against the Soviet Regime took place also in many Ukrainian cities. In Voroshilovsk, because the population there rebelled, the "Revolutionary" name "Voroshilovsk" was taken away from the city. It was rechristianed with its old name Stavrpol.

All is not serene in the Red Paradise. That is why reporters may not enter that land of concentrations, lest the world learns the truth.

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